Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, The first Sioux Young Men's Christian Association was founded in April 1879 on the reservation in South Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, The Sioux YMCAs constitute the only YMCA founded by Native Americans; and,

WHEREAS, The Sioux YMCAs have been devoted for 110 years to rendering service to Native American families on the reservations in South Dakota (and in adjoining states) since 1970 from their modest headquarters at Dupree, South Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, The goals of the Sioux YMCAs, consistent with the goals of the YMCA of the USA, include the development in the persons served of self-confidence, self-respect, appreciation for self-worth, capacities for leadership, ability to use leadership responsibly, and a sense of world consciousness, coupled with a commitment to work for worldwide understanding; the growth of the people served as responsible members of families and communities; the development in the persons served of appreciation that health of mind and body is a sacred gift; appreciation of the beauty, diversity and interdependence of all forms of life; and the development of an ethical basis for guiding the relationships of human kind with the rest of God's natural community; and,

WHEREAS, The mission of the Sioux YMCAs is to carry out on the local level the philosophy of the world YMCA which is regarded as being in its essential genius a worldwide fellowship united by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of developing Christian personality and building a Christian society; and,

WHEREAS, Today there are 28 community YMCAs related to the Sioux YMCAs on the Standing Rock, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Crow Creek, Fort Peck and Cheyenne River Reservations, all concerned for the development of youth and families; and,

WHEREAS, The Sioux YMCAs are strongly Christian but open to all who subscribe to Jesus' teachings of love and brotherhood; and,

WHEREAS, The Sioux YMCAs serve more than 5,000 participants across 25,000 square miles, and are working to alleviate many of the problems confronting the residents of the reservations; and,

WHEREAS, YMCAs and individuals around the nation and around the world are joining in providing continued financial support to the Sioux YMCAs in their mission to members on these six reservations; and,

WHEREAS, The Sioux YMCAs will be celebrating their 110th anniversary on April 29, 1989; and,

WHEREAS, YMCA leaders and others from around the nation and around the world will be gathering at Dupree and Eagle Butte in honor of this celebration:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the authority vested in me by law and the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 29, 1989, as

SIOUX YMCA DAY

in South Dakota, and do call upon South Dakota citizens all across this great state to recognize and honor that day accordingly; and I do further hereby congratulate and commend the Sioux YMCAs and all of their leaders and members, both present and those past, who have served this YMCA and the peoples of the reservations for the past 110 years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Nine

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE